



STATE OF DELAWARE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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September 23, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

c/o Ms. MaryAnn Tierney
Administrator, FEMA Region III
615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Delaware as a result of Hurricane Irene.

The State of Delaware was affected by Hurricane Irene beginning on August 25, 2011 and continuing through August 28, 2011. Hurricane Irene maintained Category 1 strength as the eye of the storm passed within 27 miles of the Delaware coast, producing continuous tropical storm force winds, tornadoes, and record flooding.

The State sustained a storm surge of 2.98 feet on top of an astronomical high tide, with a tidal level of 8.2 feet inundating low lying coastal areas. Excessive rainfall caused record flooding on the Christina River, Brandywine River, and near record flooding on the Red and White Clay Rivers in New Castle County (see attached summary from the National Weather Service). Rainfall totals ranged from 7.47 inches in Sussex County, to 8.81 inches in Kent County, and 8.34 inches in New Castle County.

In response to the situation, I took appropriate action under State law and implemented the State Emergency Operations Plan on August 25, 2011, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. I also declared a State of Emergency at 1200 hrs on August 25, 2011.

The State will implement its approved Standard Mitigation Plan.

An Aerial Surveillance Damage Assessment was conducted on August 28, 2011 from 1130 through 1730 hrs for all three counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex to identify areas of significant damage. Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) began August 30 to identify initial damage cost estimates.

Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was coordinated by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) beginning September 12 with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), local, county, and state agencies to further substantiate cost estimates. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. Hurricane Irene had the following effects on the State of Delaware:

1. There were over 51,000 customers without power at the peak of the storm.
2. Mandatory evacuations of approximately 80,000-100,000 tourists and residents, including special populations, began on Thursday, August 25.
3. There were seven shelters open as follows: six shelters open by 1200 hrs on Saturday, August 27, the seventh shelter by 1700 hrs. Five shelters were closed by 1200 hrs on Sunday, August 28. The sixth shelter was closed by 1930 hrs and the last shelter on Monday, August 29 by 1200hrs; at their peak they sheltered 2,215 individuals and 326 pets.
4. Schools were dismissed early on Friday and remained closed through the duration of the event.
5. State highway department officials reported over 200 roads under water. Seven bridges sustained structural damage. Inspections are ongoing to determine severity.
6. There were two fatalities associated with Hurricane Irene.
7. Due to the proximity and size of the storm all towns and communities across the state were affected.
8. At least 37 homes and businesses sustained major damage or were destroyed. Additional assessments are ongoing.
9. All Fire Departments, Police Departments, local and county EOCs were fully staffed and continuously activated for multiple days during the course of the storm.
10. Extensive damage to six state maintained beaches resulted in severe beach erosion and dune breaches.

I am specifically requesting Public Assistance funding for Kent and Sussex Counties. I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation funding be made available to all counties in the State of Delaware. The State of Delaware has submitted a Small Business Administration disaster request to assist homeowners and businesses in their recovery.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act is tabulated in Enclosure B. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

1. State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at 0800 hrs on August 27. The EOC staff responded to the hurricane and subsequently performed IDA and PDA with FEMA, State, and local personnel, and a flyover damage assessment.
2. The New Castle County EOC was activated as of 1800 hrs Saturday August 27. The City of Wilmington EOC was activated as of 1800 hrs Saturday, August 27. The Kent County EOC was activated as of 0600 hrs Saturday August 27. The Sussex County EOC was activated as of 1200 hrs Saturday, August 27.
3. Delaware National Guard (DNG) provided resources and personnel to the State EOC, the County EOCs, and the Wilmington EOC. Over 400 additional personnel remained on alert and provided assistance. DNG also supplied the Blackhawk helicopter, crew and support resources to conduct aerial damage assessments.
4. Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) was involved with numerous road and bridge closures, detours, and debris removal operations.
5. Delaware volunteer fire service responded and assisted with fire suppression, rescues, and evacuation transportation, including 90 units and 20 rescue boats.
6. Delaware State Police (DSP) assisted by conducting 3.8 hours of aerial surveillance flights, facilitating numerous road closures, providing security of evacuated areas, and maintaining access control to affected areas statewide.
7. County and municipal police departments assisted with road closures, security, and access control.
8. State, New Castle, Kent and Sussex County and City of Wilmington governments coordinated resources for evacuation and recovery of affected areas.
9. DNREC responded to hazardous materials incidents.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal cost shares required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$3,179,641 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 §§ 5170b and 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private

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property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Don Knox as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jd a m h", likely representing Jack A. Markell.

Jack A. Markell
Governor

Enclosures

Enclosure A

Major Disaster Request

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act

County (list each requested county)	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs (Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
	Temporary Housing (Indicate No.)	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Totals:						

Enclosure B
Major Disaster Request

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance under the Stafford Act

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Kent	\$10,000	\$637,731	\$213,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$108,019	\$240,799	\$1,219,549
New Castle	\$50,000	\$584,881	\$36,000	\$0	\$109,673	\$133,000	\$190,758	\$1,104,312
Sussex	\$20,000	\$532,561	\$105,000	\$0	\$0	\$108,019	\$90,200	\$855,780
Totals:	\$80,000	\$1,755,173	\$354,000	\$0	\$119,673	\$349,038	\$521,757	\$3,179,641

* Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

Category A: Debris Removal

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures

Category C: Roads and Bridges

Category D: Water Control Facilities

Category E: Buildings and Equipment

Category F: Utilities

Category G: Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, Etc.)

Enclosure C
Major Disaster Request

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	Other
New Castle	TBD	TBD					
Kent	TBD	TBD					
Totals:	TBD	TBD					

Enclosure D
Major Disaster Request

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

Category of Assistance	Amount	
	State	Local
Individual Assistance	N/A	N/A
"Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program	N/A	N/A
Other (specify)	N/A	N/A
Total:		
Public Assistance:		
Category A – Debris Removal	\$80,000	\$0
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$642,913	\$1,112,260
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$305,000	\$49,000
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$0	\$0
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$0	\$119,673
Category F – Utilities	\$216,038	\$133,000
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$521,757	\$0
Total:	\$1,765,708	\$1,413,933
Grand Total:	\$1,765,708	\$1,413,933